

From: EPA News [noreply@cision.com]
Sent: 10/22/2021 12:31:35 PM
To: Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Friday, October 22, 2021

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




Report Overview:

Total Clips (25)

Grants (2)




















Water - Drinking (23)


Headline	Date	Outlet	Outlet State	
Grants (2)				
 Commission signs two resolutions for Sewer Project	10/22/2021	MariettaTimes.com	OH	  
 Whitmer seeks water pipe funds	10/21/2021	The Ann Arbor News, The	MI	 
Water - Drinking (23)				
 Benton Harbor asks lawmakers for money to solve water crisis	10/22/2021	WILX-TV Online	MI	  
 Benton Harbor water service restored following major main break	10/22/2021	MLive	MI	  
 Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water	10/22/2021	WOSH NewsTalk 1490	WI	  
 Environmental chief defends Michigan's water response in Benton Harbor	10/22/2021	Janesville Gazette Online	WI	  
 Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing	10/22/2021	WWMT-TV Online	MI	  
 State water official fired over Flint, Michigan water	10/22/2021	World Socialist Website, The	MI	  

	crisis awarded full back pay				
	Benton Harbor secures state loans for water system improvements	10/21/2021	Herald-Palladium, The	MI	
	Benton Harbor secures state loans for water system improvements	10/21/2021	Herald-Palladium Online, The	MI	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break	10/21/2021	KWLM-AM	MN	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break	10/21/2021	Daily Dodge	WI	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break	10/21/2021	WSJM	MI	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break	10/21/2021	WPHM-AM Online	MI	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break - 1330 & 95.5 WFIN	10/21/2021	1330 WFIN	OH	
	Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break Mix 102.7 WCPZ	10/21/2021	North Coast Journal - WCPZ-FM	OH	
	Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water	10/21/2021	WTHI-TV - online	IN	
	House Committee Hears About	10/21/2021	WSJM	MI	

Benton Harbor Lead Issues

Lead

 'nanoparticle' worries sped Benton Harbor response, officials testify	10/21/2021	MLive	MI	 
 McLaren Flint reduces water settlement by \$15 million	10/21/2021	WJRT-TV Online	MI	 
 Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing	10/21/2021	WPBN-TV Online	MI	 
 Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing	10/21/2021	WSBT-TV Online	IN	 
 Senate wants Michigan docs on response to Benton Harbor lead contamination	10/21/2021	Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	MI	
 Senate wants state docs on response to Benton Harbor lead contamination	10/21/2021	Monroe News, The	MI	
 State committee seeks records on Benton Harbor water crisis	10/20/2021	Herald-Palladium Online, The	MI	 

News Headline: Commission signs two resolutions for Sewer Project | 


News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: MariettaTimes.com

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...Ritter said both were necessary to receive funds. The first was from the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund and the second...

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News Headline: Whitmer seeks water pipe funds | 

News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: The Ann Arbor News, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: BENTON HARBOR — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wants the Michigan Legislature to appropriate \$11.4 million to help fund lead pipe removals in Benton Harbor, where residents are relying on bottled water amid an escalating water crisis.

Whitmer met with community leaders in Benton Harbor on Tuesday as part of a "listening session" in which she called on state lawmakers to help cover the estimated \$30 million cost to replace all the lead pipes within the city's aged network of buried water lines.

"I cannot imagine the stress that moms and dads in Benton Harbor are under as they emerge from a pandemic, work hard to put food on the table, pay the bills and face a threat to the health of their children," Whitmer said in a statement. "That's why we will not rest until every parent feels confident to give their kid a glass of water knowing that it is safe."

The governor urged the legislature to use federal stimulus funding available from the American Rescue Plan to cover the additional infrastructure replacement costs.

Republicans said they planned to

consider \$600 million for statewide drinking water infrastructure in the Senate Appropriations Committee meeting on Wednesday.

"We've been focused on making sure we can replace lead lines and ensure clean drinking water," said Abby Mitch, spokeswoman for Sen. Majority Leader Mike Shirkey. "That's why we are taking up a proposal sponsored by Sen. (Jon) Bumstead tomorrow in Appropriations Committee that would, in part, allocate \$600 million for lead line replacement."


Last week, Whitmer pledged to have 100% of the city's lead pipes dug up by April 2023, an ambitious 18-month window to complete an effort that has barely begun and was previously expected to take about five years to complete.

Benton Harbor has somewhere between about 3,000 and 6,000 lead service lines, but nobody is really sure where they're located due to poor record-keeping.

The city was targeting about 100 lines for removal starting later this month using a \$5.6 million grant the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last awarded last fall.

That, coupled with \$10 million in the state's 2022 budget and another \$3 million in state revolving funds, totals \$18.6 million currently available for the project.

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News Headline: Benton Harbor asks lawmakers for money to solve water crisis | 

News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: WILX-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...city's mayor spoke before lawmakers Thursday asking for money to replace lead lines LANSING, Mich. (WILX) - The head of Michigan's...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor water service restored following major main break | 


News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: MLive

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...109 and 107-ppb, according to state data. A petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 20 by a...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water | 

News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: WOSH NewsTalk 1490

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...from the Michigan Clean Water plan, and a \$5.6 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The news release says...

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News Headline: Environmental chief defends Michigan's water response in Benton Harbor | 

News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: Janesville Gazette Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...levels for the sixth time in three years at the end of June; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency raised concerns that...

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News Headline: Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing | 


News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: WWMT-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...residents, though, are tired of waiting. Residents are petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency to help the city clean...

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News Headline: State water official fired over Flint, Michigan water crisis awarded full back pay | 

News Date: 10/22/2021

Outlet Full Name: World Socialist Website, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) officials. She also asserted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) field expert who...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor secures state loans for water system improvements | 

News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: BENTON HARBOR â€” More financial help is on the way to help Benton Harbor replace its aging infrastructure and lead service lines.

The city was recently awarded \$6.5 million in grants and loans from the state's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2022. The fund is handled by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

The money includes \$3 million in federal "Booker funds," which were established by the DWSRF for 2022 to help disadvantaged communities replace lead service lines. These are referred to as Booker funding because U.S. Sen. Corey Booker authored the federal legislation, which was signed into law in October 2019.

City commissioners in June approved applying for the state grants and loans as part of a more than \$13 million package to repair and replace the city's aging infrastructure.

At the time, Jason Marquardt from Abonmarche, the city's engineering firm, told commissioners the Booker funds wouldn't have to be paid back and would be used to replace about 600 lead service lines.

He said the city has an estimated 2,390 lead service lines that by law need to be replaced over the next 20 years.

But things have changed since then, with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signing an executive directive last week telling state departments to do everything they can to help the city replace its lead service lines in 18 months.

City residents were told earlier this month by state officials not to use the city's water for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking food or in powdered baby formula, while waiting for test results to find out if the free water filters the state has been giving to residents are doing what they are supposed to.

Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad said Wednesday that he's uncertain when the test results will arrive.

Benton Harbor has been under a state advisory for lead since October 2018, when routine summer sampling found higher-than-acceptable levels of lead in some of the city's tap water.

According to the state advisory at the time, eight of the 30 Benton Harbor homes tested for lead over the summer of 2018 were above the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead, and the 90th percentile of the samples was 22 ppb for lead.

Since then, the city has been required to test a sampling of homes every six months and has had to issue six more lead advisories.

More help

The city is already set to receive \$10 million from the state's 2022 budget to replace lead service lines in the city, with Whitmer pledging to secure another \$10 million in federal American Rescue Plan money.

The city is preparing to replace almost 100 lead service lines by the end of May 2022 using some of the \$5.5 million received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2020.

When the EPA grant was announced, it was expected to be used to replace 888 lead service lines over the next four years.

Work is being finished on a nearly \$15 million infrastructure project that replaced 150 lead service lines.

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News Headline: Benton Harbor secures state loans for water system improvements |  



News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium Online, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...the end of May 2022 using some of the \$5.5 million received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2020....

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break |  



News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: KWLM-AM

Outlet State: MN

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break |  



News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: Daily Dodge

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break |  



News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WSJM

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break |  



News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WPHM-AM Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break - 1330 & 95.5 WFIN |  


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: 1330 WFIN

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, already dealing with lead crisis, now entirely without water after main break | Mix 102.7 WCPZ | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: North Coast Journal - WCPZ-FM

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...to a Natural Resources Defense Council petition filed last month to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of local...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WTHI-TV - online

Outlet State: IN

News Text: ...from the Michigan Clean Water plan, and a \$5.6 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The news release says...

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News Headline: House Committee Hears About Benton Harbor Lead Issues | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WSJM

Outlet State: MI

News Text: The Michigan House Oversight Committee on Thursday heard from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy...

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News Headline: Lead 'nanoparticle' worries sped Benton Harbor response, officials testify | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: MLive

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...relying on to mitigate exposure risk over the past couple years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting...

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News Headline: McLaren Flint reduces water settlement by \$15 million | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WJRT-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...fund still could grow, as litigation continues against the federal Environmental Protection Agency and more engineering firms...

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News Headline: Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing | 

News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WPNB-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...residents, though, are tired of waiting. Residents are petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency to help the city clean...

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News Headline: Michigan House committee faces Benton Harbor water contamination crisis in hearing | 


News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: WSBT-TV Online

Outlet State: IN

News Text: ...residents, though, are tired of waiting. Residents are petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency to help the city clean...

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News Headline: Senate wants Michigan docs on response to Benton Harbor lead contamination | 

News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

Outlet State: MI

News Text: The Senate Oversight Committee is requesting a trove of documents from the state government to review its response to the long-standing lead contamination of water in Benton Harbor.

Committee Chairman Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan, confirmed the existence of the investigation and the need for documents from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy during a phone interview Tuesday morning.

"People in the state deserve to have answers about what happened, and we want to be diligent in that responsibility that the Legislature has, to have oversight over the departments," McBroom said.

While several Michigan departments have ramped up their responses recently to the crisis in Benton Harbor, documents from environmental and community organizations indicate unsafe levels of lead in drinking water dating to at least 2018. Experts believe the lead levels are due to old, corroding lead pipes, the same cause of the Flint water crisis first recognized in 2014.

"Since high levels of lead were first discovered in Benton Harbor's drinking water, both Benton Harbor and EGLE have failed to address this public health crisis with the urgency it requires," wrote environmental and community activists in a September petition asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to intervene in the crisis.

"Further, both have failed to follow key requirements of the federal and Michigan lead and copper rule that were

triggered upon the initial exceedance of the lead action level and meant to minimize lead contamination as soon as possible."

Residents are urged to use bottled water for drinking, cooking, baby formula and more. The state health department has distributed nearly 50,000 cases of water recently to the city's roughly 10,000 residents.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Tuesday she visited in the morning with Benton Harbor residents in the community, a trip she did not publicize before taking. She went to the southwest Michigan city to highlight an executive directive she recently signed and roughly \$20 million allocated to replace all of Benton Harbor's lead pipes within 18 months, a substantially shorter time frame than previously promised.

"Today, I visited Benton Harbor to hear from community leaders doing the work on the ground and residents living through water challenges every day," Whitmer said in a news release.

"I called on the Legislature to fully fund lead service line replacement with an additional \$11.4 million investment, helping us meet our expedited timeline to replace 100% of lead service lines in 18 months. Our work will build on the executive directive I signed last week to pursue an all-hands-on-deck approach to protect access to safe drinking water right now and make lasting investments in water infrastructure."

State senators are set to take up a bill on Wednesday that would allocate hundreds of millions in federal dollars toward improving water infrastructure.

In a letter McBroom sent to EGLE Director Liesl Eichler Clark, he requests a large trove of internal communications and other documents pertaining to lead levels and water testing. He also asks for communications between EGLE and Whitmer's office about Benton Harbor's crisis dating to January 2019.

"The documents requested herein will help us learn and understand how the department established, implemented, and executed policies and initiatives to address the water crisis in Benton Harbor over the past three years," McBroom states in the letter.

"One of the department's vital responsibilities is to ensure the safety and well-being of Michigan's environment and the residents that reside in it, and a thorough review of the Department's response to this tragedy is necessary and will help strengthen and preserve the Department's effectiveness moving forward."

EGLE Communications Manager Hugh McDiarmid, Jr. said the department received McBroom's letter and intends to comply with the request.

"EGLE looks forward to showing our work regarding the activities that the committee is requesting, including how Benton Harbor officials and residents were informed of drinking water lead exceedances," McDiarmid said in a statement.

"EGLE will also illustrate the consistent and ongoing technical support the state continues to extend the city and its public water supply to establish effective corrosion control, reduce lead levels in drinking water, and invest in improving their water system's infrastructure."

McBroom also served on a special House committee established to respond to the Flint crisis while a member of the lower legislative chamber. He said Tuesday perhaps the biggest takeaway from that review was the need to ensure departments are listening to constituents and taking immediate action to address legitimate concerns.

"For the citizen to be able to cut through the bureaucracy and get the reality of what they're seeing through to the right official was shown to be really difficult in Flint. If that is the case here - which, we don't know yet - but if that is the case here ... we need more opportunity for the citizens to make sure their voices are getting heard, especially when it is a serious health issue that the government ought to be overseeing in the first place," McBroom said.

"If that's the case here, then perhaps we'll be able to pursue more opportunity for the citizens to get their needs heard."

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News Headline: Senate wants state docs on response to Benton Harbor lead contamination | 

News Date: 10/21/2021

Outlet Full Name: Monroe News, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: The Senate Oversight Committee is requesting a trove of documents from the state government to review its response to the long-standing lead contamination of water in Benton Harbor.

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"If that's the case here, then perhaps we'll be able to pursue more opportunity for the citizens to get their needs heard."

McBroom asked Clark to provide all of the communications and related documents within 10 days. In reality, he said he anticipates it will take at least two months for his committee to obtain and review the requested information.

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News Headline: State committee seeks records on Benton Harbor water crisis | 

News Date: 10/20/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium Online, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...a month after more than 20 organizations filed a petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for emergency action...

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